

The Farmington Times

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**THE TIMES MANAGE-
MENT GUARANTEES
THAT THE MERCHANTS
WHO ADVERTISE IN THIS
PAPER WILL GIVE YOU
BEST VALUES FOR YOUR
MONEY.**

POLITICAL REFLECTIONS

Political parties are founded on certain defined principles of government and economic questions of public policy, but these are seldom candidly discussed in our political campaigns. The twisting of facts, suppressions of half the truths or more, appeals to prejudices and selfish interests, claims of superior virtue, wholesale recklessness of statement and the personal element, enter most largely into our campaigns, alike by candidates, public speakers and newspaper. Candid and square discussions of real issues are the exception, rather than the rule as they should be. The dominating purpose of all our political campaigns is, on the face, an effort of the "ins" to stay in and of the "outs" to get in. Then back of this stand shrewd, calculating, far-seeing big interests seeking to obtain special privileges and advantages in commerce, trade and manufacture, ready to use whichever political party or all whose chosen representatives will turn a pregnant ear to their specious arguments.

Every good American citizen is by inheritance a politician. It is to his own as well as his country's interest that he should be and that he should educate himself to vote intelligently. But with all the confusing elements entering into our political campaigns, in which questions and issues of real concern and portent are so beclouded as to be really lost sight of, it is no easy matter for him to grasp and keep an intelligent hold on the situation. Yet as a voter that is what he is expected to do, and it is really a wonder that in the aggregate he votes as understandingly as he does. This is doubtless due to the fact that, whatever the shortcomings of some of our public leaders and representatives, those who succeed to places of honor and trust in the legislative, executive and judicial departments of government, are largely men whose predominating characteristics are honesty, patriotism and faithfulness to fundamental partisan principles; and wherever evils in any department approach the border of flagrancy, there are always some of them ready to remedy the evil and arouse public opinion to their danger. Thus, the voter who, relying on the cardinal principles of his party and the average honesty of mankind, continues to "vote 'er straight," is not so blind to his interests as the alleged independent, who would vote for men alone whom he cannot intelligently know in preference to an organized party of defined principles, would have you believe.

But it would be a refreshing and wholesome experience to have our campaigns conducted on a frank, candid, courteous discussion of differing principles and policies, with all elements of evasion, deception and specious pleadings eliminated. And what an education it would be for the whole country!

However, we are not looking for a political millennium; we must make the best of what we have and go on voting for and with the party whose cardinal principles and grasp of the issues of the day are in harmony with our own. Woodrow Wilson is meeting the requirements splendidly.

Vandiver has quit again. He's certainly acquiring quite a reputation as a "quitter." But it could have been done more gracefully.

Mr. Folk was in St. Louis, and the talk of his probable candidacy for Governor was revived, on the eve of Mr. Vandiver's withdrawal from the race. It looks like more than a mere coincidence.

Mr. Folk's later visit to St. Louis, and the revival of the talk that if insistent persuaded, he might be induced for the public good to enter the gubernatorial race, look as if he really wanted to be Governor again. But, to be candid, we don't hear anybody down this way crying for Folk. It sounds more like Gardner, or Roach, or Atkinson, or Houchin, or Lindsey, or some of the other fellows.

A SYSTEM TO REMEDY

Ninety-six counties in Missouri have returned to them by the State more money than they pay into the State Treasury in taxes. In an article some time since we mentioned the fact that St. Francois county received back from the State \$13,341.72 more than it paid to it in taxes. This is not only a prosperous county agriculturally, but it is rich in developed mineral resources that net the operating companies millions of dollars annually. Why should it be a pensioner upon the State? There is Jasper county, another rich mineral district, where operators are piling up fortunes; it even surpasses St. Francois county as a sponge on the State, for it received back last year \$28,042.54 more than it paid to the State in taxes.

We have called attention to the fact that the lead companies' realty holdings of St. Francois county are assessed at only one-fourth to one-half as much as farm and other real property, if the popular impression that real property is assessed at 35 to 40 per cent of its value is correct. The same condition doubtless prevails in Jasper county. But there is something radically wrong in a tax system, or in the way the system is administered, when 96 counties of the State are a drain on it, and about 8 counties and two or three of the largest cities practically furnish all the support the State government gets from direct taxation.

Of course, in cities like St. Louis the assessment of property must be placed high in order to raise the revenue necessary to maintain their municipal governments, but there ought to be some sort of system of assessment and taxation that would relieve them of paying more than their proportion of State taxes. It is a problem that the best and most constructive minds the next Legislature may have among its members ought to take hold of and work out.

And this suggests the thought that we give too little attention to the selection of our representatives to the General Assembly. The people have come to look upon the Legislature, not exactly as a joke, but as a sort of political kindergarten to which ambitious young lawyers, business men, farmers and school teachers, who aspire to public life, may be sent to give them a start up the ladder.

Instead we need men of solid experience in law, business, agriculture, education and the trades, whose practical knowledge may be brought to bear upon all new laws, revisions or repeals affecting their various callings. Clearheaded lawyers to see that all bills are properly drawn and the practical experience of the others to see that justice and a square deal is meted out to all. Keen business men to guard against extravagance and waste in appropriations and to keep the expenses of the State government and its various institutions within the revenue. It follows, of course, that there must be honesty of purpose among the members and a genuine desire to serve the people as a whole, placing these above personal considerations of political ambition and advancement.

Is it too much to ask of human nature? Perhaps—but the people should begin to give more attention to the selection of their Representatives in the Legislature and get the best material possible to look after the State's requirements and business affairs.

The Republicans acknowledge with poor grace that the country is prosperous under our Democratic administration, but then declare that it is all due to the European war, and that when peace is declared the bottom is going to drop out of everything. Oh, you wailing Jeremiahs! Nothing of the kind is going to happen, for the people and the business interests are going to keep the Republicans out so that times will continue good.

"For two weeks or more I felt that I would have a pleasant campaign and an easy victory; now the situation has changed—" And so Mr. Vandiver withdraws from the race for Governor, because he can't "be carried to the skies on flowery beds of ease, while others fight to win the prize and sail through bloody seas." It may be discouraging we admit, but as a Democrat who has sucked pretty freely at the public teat, he might show appreciation enough not to throw mud at the party that has mothered him and by innuendo pitch obstacles in the way of the other candidates who are not afraid to make the race.

SHOULD BE PROHIBITED

A "movie" is now running at "The Central" theatre, corner of Sixth and Market streets, in St. Louis, called the "Birth of a Man", which evidently has for its purpose the arousing of "preparedness" spirit, showing as it is stated on the screen, "what may happen in this country," in view of what has been done, and is now being done, in the European war.

The author of these pictures was evidently in a greatly overwrought state of mind when he produced such imaginings, which are entirely outside the range of reason. The pictures pretend to show how this country has been set upon by foreign battle-ship, New York City is soon destroyed by shot, shell, bomb and fire, and the inhabitants that are not killed outright are driven in panic hordes inland. Insane as is the idea these pictures are intended to convey, they doubtless represent the views of those who paid for them. We suppose these pictures represent the army and navy plan, regardless of what the true opinion of such authorities may be, as well as representing the desires of the war munitions manufacturers.

We think it would serve a far better purpose were the showing of such pictures prohibited in this country, as their evident intent and purpose is to excite the people, which is the last thing that should be desired during times like the present. If permitted to follow their own calm judgment, we believe the American people can be depended upon to do the right thing at the right time. They have never failed to do so in the past, and this country is constantly progressing upward.

The State Progressive Convention to elect delegates to the National Convention will meet in Kansas City next Monday. The National Progressive Convention will meet in Chicago June 7th, at the same time as the National Republican Convention.

Mr. Gardner and Mr. Roach are not disturbed over the rumored candidacy of Mr. Folk, and declare they are in the race for the Democratic nomination for Governor against all comers. As Mr. Roach expresses it, "the more the merrier." But F. M. Wilson, United States District Attorney at Kansas City, has withdrawn, giving recent grip illness and resulting exhaustive combinations as the reason.

All this fanning the spark of former Governor Folk's availability as a candidate for Governor again is not setting the political woods afire that we can observe, though Mr. Vandiver did run to cover. He has done that before. But if the Democratic party of this State were really wandering around athirst in the wilderness of doubt without a Moses to lead it, former experience would hardly inspire it to turn to Joe Folk to bring waetr out of the rock.

Because St. Louis has to assess her property at 70 per cent in order to raise revenue to pay its expensive Republican city government, it wants to force all the balance of the State to do the same, as its high assessment forces on it a disproportionate share of the State tax. Well, we are hardly disposed to allow St. Louis to fix the basis or per cent of assessing all over the country, for its city expenses might take another jump, and then up would go the assessment again. Let the best constructive talent that the people may send to the next Legislature get to work, with such expert assistance as it may be able to secure, and formulate and pass an equitable assessing and taxing law. It might be best—and we think it would—to assess all real property at what it would by fair estimation bring at public sale; then fix the tax rate, on a basis of the total assessed valuation of the whole State, at a figure that would give the State government sufficient revenue for all requirements, liberally but economically administered. To get at the personal property is a harder nut to crack.

**Seed Sweet
Potatoes**

**Nancy Hall
Bermuda
Southern Queen
Red Nansamond
Klein Gro. Co.**

Army Bill in the Senate

Washington, March 29.—The army bill was brought into the Senate today, before a crowded chamber, which listened attentively. Chairman Chamberlain of the Military Committee gave a detailed explanation of the Senate measure and its purposes and told why the committee had decided to substitute its own bill for the one already passed by the house rather than to attempt to reconcile differences. He emphasized the need for action.

"What the people of the country want now is action rather than long discussions," he told the Senate. Briefly reviewing the nation's earlier military policies from the time of Washington down to the present, he said Congress never had yielded to all the requests of administrative officials for greater efficiency in army organization.

The Senate bill was drawn, Senator Chamberlain explained, after a thorough study of all reorganization plans—the Hay bill, the Garrison bill and the Chamberlain bill.

"There are no differences between the Secretary of War and the two military committees of Congress so serious that they cannot easily be settled in conference," he said. "The bill as finally introduced was framed without partisan or political purpose. It was the embodiment of the best in all the army bills, as chosen after careful study by all the experts of the war department, and Republicans on the committee have co-operated and never sought to interfere with construction of the measure, which has for its purpose the best interests of the country."

With compulsory training, not compulsory service, he declared, the country, after five years, could absolutely do away with its standing army, except such as was necessary for police duty. The country, however, he explained, was not ready for compulsory training and voluntary training in institutions of learning, was as far as the bill had gone.

Blames Congress for Conditions
Senator Chamberlain blamed Congress for the faulty equipment in the army, for aeroplanes that would not fly and machine guns that would not shoot.

"The aviation service is notoriously weak," he said. "It is not the fault of the army or of the aviation corps, but it is the fault of Congress that refuses to appropriate money to provide proper equipment."

"Still, in the discussion on the floor of this Senate you will find distinguished Senators protesting against the appropriations and arguing that the people's money must not be spent for war. And the voice of the pacifist is heard in the land protesting that no money must be spent. They say we will never have any more war. I can only hope not, but no man can tell what may happen in 24 hours. Who could predict the blowing up of the Maine, the Spanish war and the transformation of this nation into a world power in 24 hours? Not only have we become a world power, but the United States today is disposed stronger than ever before to assert the Monroe Doctrine and to make it more than a mere paper doctrine. If we do undertake to assert it we must be prepared to do it more than by mere word of mouth."

Senator Gallinger, the Republican leader, said the most recent object lesson of the country's unpreparedness was the fact that six days elapsed after the Villa attack upon Columbus before American troops could enter Mexico.

Defective Aeroplanes Discussed
The New Hampshire Senator added that the aeroplane equipment of the army was inadequate.

"Yes, and Congress is to blame for it," retorted Senator Chamberlain.

"Why are all the machines defective?" inquired Senator Yenyon. "Other nations seem to buy the same kind."

"One reason is that we gave too small a sum to buy them," began Senator Chamberlain.

"Perhaps the fault is not entirely with Congress," interrupted Senator Thomas.

Some investigations about to begin may show inefficiency in the Aviation Corps itself.

"I hope it will show something; it may show Congress the importance of this service," replied Senator Chamberlain.

The cost of the National Guard under the bill would be \$46,000,000 the first year, \$50,000,000 the second, \$40,000,000 the third, \$45,000,000 the fourth, and about \$40,000,000 annually thereafter. The total cost of all forces under the bill would be \$197,896,000 the first year, ranging up to \$200,000,000 the fourth year, \$250,000,000 the fifth year and \$246,250,000 annually thereafter.

The bill provides for a standing army of approximately 175,000, an in-

SECOND ANNUAL SALE

I WILL SELL AT PUBLIC SALE

Saturday, April 15, 1916

at my farm, 1 mile northwest of Farmington. Sale will begin at 1 o'clock p. m. sharp.

10 Registered Hereford Bulls
12 Registered Hereford Heifers
15 Fullblood Hereford Heifers, not regist'rd
2 very fine coming 3-year old Percheron Fillies, 1 registered and broke to work.
1 Saddle Bred Filley, coming 2-years old
Also some farm machinery, a manure spreader in good shape. Will offer privately some good young Jacks and Jennetts. Positively no by-bidding.

Terms of Sale: Cash in hand

E. E. SWINK, Owner

crease of about 40,000 over the total proposed in the House measure. It also provides for a Federal volunteer force with a maximum strength of 260,000 and a federalized national guard of 280,000 men.

For County Judge First District:

W. A. MITCHELL.

W. J. HOBBS

of Bonne Terre.

CITY OFFICES.

We are authorized to announce the following for nomination for office in the City of Farmington, which election will be held on the first Tuesday in April (the 4th):

For City Collector:

A. C. BOYD.

OSCAR L. HAILE.

For Alderman, 1st Ward.

GUS SCHLISSER.

For Alderman, 2nd Ward:

BARRY PHILLIPS

For Alderman, 3rd Ward:

JOHN MOORE.

For Alderman in Fourth Ward:

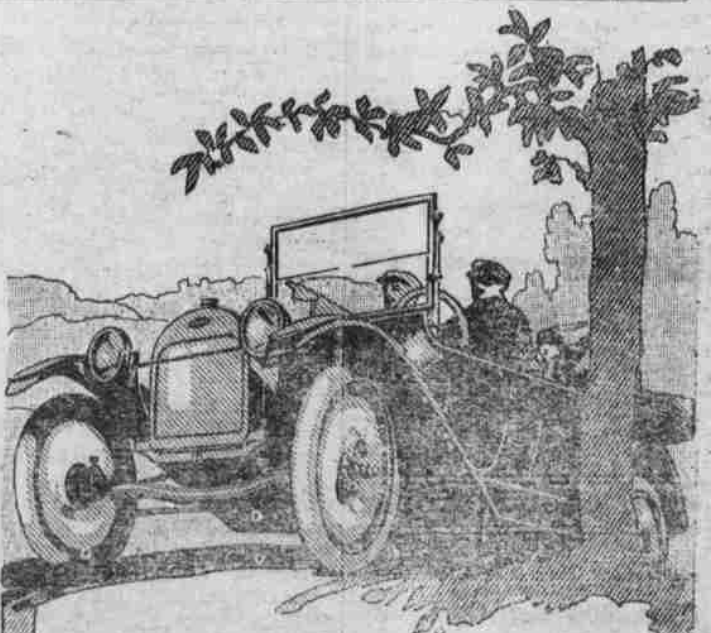
ROBT. L. BOSWELL.

Lets put a stop to this peace talk. Charley Chaplin says he intends to play Hamlet when the war ends.

Senator La Follette is not standing back for any leap year demonstrations from the 1916 nomination.

No matter what form of government China seeks to adopt, the result is altogether informal.

Trouble about peace in Mexico is that all those generals would have to go to work.



Power!!

Performance—the there-and-back kind—the never-failing kind—depends on a car's motor, on its power. Around the most efficient power plant ever designed is built the

Chevrolet "Four-Ninety"

Arthur Mason, the father of the valve-in-head motor, designer of the Buick motor, long sought to reduce fuel cost without sacrificing power.

The Chevrolet type valve-in-head with smaller cylinder bore, larger port areas, perfect vaporizing, and improved vacuum exhaust—is the full fruition of his long experience and is the surest and most economical gasoline power plant in practical use.

The Chevrolet is not a new nor untried car. For three years Chevrolet Cars have given owners a power satisfaction never known before. Quantity production has brought this car to the whole public by making possible the remarkably low price.

Lang & Bro. Mfg. & Mer. Co.

Farmington, Mo.

CHEVROLET